Appl. No. 10/584,360
Amdt. dated July 28, 2011
Reply to Office Action of April 28, 2011

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 19, 29, 31, 39, 40, 48, 49, 57-59, 61, 64-71,73, and 76-81 are pending in the application. By way of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 19, 29, 39, 48, 57-59, 64, 65, 67, 69-71, 73, 77, 79, and 81 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 19, 29, 31, 39, 40, 48, 49, 57-59, 61, 64-71,73, and 76-81 remain pending, with claims 1, 58, and 70 being independent.

No new matter is added by way of this amendment. Independent claims 1, 58, and 70 are amended to include subject matter previously disclosed but not claims. For example, claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*:

> *wherein the process execution means <u>obtains the weighting factor by calculating</u>* <u>*a product of transition constants defined on routes from the currently executed*</u> <u>*control to the subsequent control associated with the currently executed control,*</u> *[and] <u>writes the obtained weighting factor into the database.</u>*

Claims 58 and 70 are similarly amended. Support for these amendments can be found at least at paragraph 117, paragraphs 122-124, and Figures 8 and 9(a) of the specification as filed. For example, in an exemplary embodiment, in a wire database D5, a preceding process X, a following process Y, and a weighting factor J given to the transition from X to Y are assigned to one another, and stored in the database (paragraph 117). For example, referring to Figure 9(a), an agent processing unit 7 calculates weighting factors J of the respective wires W01, W03, and W05, and writes calculation results into the wire database D5 (paragraphs 122-124).

Specifically, in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 9(a), the weighting factor J of the wire W01 is a transition constant k=0.5. Furthermore, the weighting factor J of the wire W03 is the result of multiplying the transition constant associated with the route from process P1 to process P2, by the transition constant associated with the route from process P2 to process P3 (0.25 = 0.5 x 0.5).

Moreover, the weighting factor J of the wire W05 is a result of multiplying the transition constant associated with the route from process P1 to process P2, by the transition constant associated with the route from process P2 to process P3, by the transition constant associated with the route from process P3 to the right in the Figure (0.125 = 0.5 x O.5 x O.5).

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Thus, the cited passages provide support for the new limitations added to claims 1, 58, and 70 herein, and these limitations thus do not constitute new matter.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 19, 29, 39, 48, 57-59, 64, 65, 67, 69-71, 73, 77, 79, and 81 are further amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added by these non-substantive amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 4-10, 19, 29, 31, 39, 40, 48, 49, 57-59, 61, 64-71, 73, and 76-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Funk (US Pub. No. 2003/0065427), hereinafter "Funk," in view of Kennewick (US Pub. No. 2004/0193420), hereinafter "Kennewick," and further in view of Kawasaki (US Patent 6,076,061), hereinafter "Kawasaki." Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 03(a) as allegedly being obvious over Funk, Kennewick, Kawasaki, and Potter (US Patent 5,729,659), hereinafter "Potter." These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the instant amendments.

By the Office Action's own admission, neither Funk nor Kennewick teaches weighting factors as claimed (see, *e.g.* the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action). Kawasaki is relied on as allegedly teaching "[t]hat the database stores weighting factors (figure 10, weights are stored), [a]nd that the process execution means uses the weighting factors (final recognition determined based on recognition probability and weighting factor; Col 4 lines 14-17.) However, Kawasaki's weights are "controlled in accordance with a viewpoint and its movement." The weights disclosed in Kawasaki are not "obtain[ed] by calculating a product of transition constants defined on routes from the currently executed control to the subsequent control associated with the currently executed control," as is called for by all three independent claims, as amended.

Potter fails to correct these deficiencies in the teachings of Funk, Kennewick, and Kawakasi, as evidenced by the fact that Potter was only relied on as allegedly teaching limitations relating to parts of speech being identified, and does not teach the weighting factors claimed.

The cited references, taken either alone or in combination, do not disclose or in any way suggest

> *wherein the process execution means <u>obtains the weighting factor by calculating</u>* <u>*a product of transition constants defined on routes from the currently executed*</u> <u>*control to the subsequent control associated with the currently executed control,*</u> *[and] <u>writes the obtained weighting factor into the database,</u>*

as is required by independent claims 1, 58, and 70, as amended. Dependent claims 2-10, 19, 29, 31, 39, 40, 48, 49, 57, 59, 61, 64-69, 71,73, and 76-81 recite additional features of the invention which are considered independently patentable. These claims are further patentable due to each of their dependence on one of claims 1, 58, or 70. Withdrawal of the §103 rejections of all claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments
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